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and other scientific societies. Such a directory is a necessary preliminary of the activities of the committee on international cooperation in intellectual work.

#### CALENDAR REFORM

REFORM of the calendar has been much discussed during the past decade or more, for the inconveniences and inconsistencies of the present calendar are obvious.

The two schemes which are receiving the largest amount of attention are the international fixed calendar plan and the Swiss plan.

The former, first publicly proposed by Moses B. Cotsworth of Vancouver in 1894, provides for thirteen months in the year, with twenty-eight days to the month, every date being attached to the same day of the week in every month. New Year's Day is a zero day called January 0, and is a full holiday. The extra day in leap year is a similar holiday inserted as July 0. The extra month, which, of course, does not add to the actual length of the year, is introduced between June and July, and is called "Sol." Easter is to be fixed by the Christian churches on some date between March 21 and April 26, thus stabilizing an event whose drifting causes inconveniences and losses in business and social life.

The Swiss plan has been advocated largely by astronomers. It also sets aside each New Year's Day and each leap-year day as independent legal holidays. The other 364 days are divided into four quarters of 91 days each, each quarter containing one month of 31 days and two months of 30 days, thus keeping twelve months as at present.

The international fixed calendar plan recently received the unanimous approval of a convention held in Washington by those interested in calendar reform. The American section of the International Astronomical Union, after considering both the

Swiss plan advocated by its committee on calendar reform and the fixed calendar plan, recently refused to take action on the matter.

The question of calendar reform was taken up at a meeting of the International Association of Academies held in St. Petersburg in 1913, and a committee was appointed on that occasion "to study questions relative to the unification and simplification of the calendars and the fixing of the date of Easter." This committee would have made a report in 1916, but for the war. Another discussion of this subject took place at the International Geographical Congress held in Rome in 1913. In June of the same year the World Congress on International Associations, which met at Brussels, passed a resolution urging the governments of the world to adopt a universal calendar. Three of the International Congresses of Chambers of Commerce have given expression to the same desire. Finally, just before the outbreak of the world war, the International Congress on the Reform of the Calendar held its sessions at Liège, and not only agreed to urge the adoption of a universal and improved calendar but also made plans for a formal conference, which was to have been convoked in Switzerland at the invitation of the Swiss government but was never held.

In the future there may come a conference of nations that will adopt a new and more logical calendar as easily as standard time was established by an international conference at Washington about forty years ago.

#### INVISIBLE SUN-SPOTS

DR. GEORGE ELLERY HALE, director of the Mount Wilson Observatory, has announced the discovery of invisible sun-spots. In 1908 Dr. Hale found that a sun-spot is a great whirling storm, similar to a terrestrial tornado, but on a gigantic scale, often vastly larger than the earth. The ex-